ENTRUSTED | WEEK 3

OCTOBER 25th, 2026
Put God First | *HAGGAI 1:3-7*

LEADER GUIDE

Read: Haggai 1:1-15

Main Idea
God calls us to examine our priorities, pursuits, and participation to ensure that He is first in every area of our lives. Putting God first means moving beyond good intentions and faithfully using what He has entrusted to us to advance His Kingdom.

Icebreaker
What's something you've been saying you'll get around to doing but keep putting off? What's your excuse?

Transition
We all have things we know we should prioritize, but somehow life gets busy and other things take their place. Sometimes we don't intentionally neglect what matters most. We simply allow other things to become more important.

In Haggai 1, God's people found themselves in a similar situation. They had started rebuilding God's house, but as life happened, their priorities shifted. Through the prophet Haggai, God challenged them to stop and consider their ways.
That same challenge applies to us today. Are we truly putting God first, or have other things gradually taken His place?

Summary
In Haggai 1, God's people had returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. They began rebuilding the temple, but

after facing opposition, they stopped. Sixteen years passed, and while they continued building their own homes and pursuing their personal interests, God's house remained unfinished.

Through the prophet Haggai, God challenged His people to "consider your ways." Their problem wasn't that they had nice homes or were working hard. It was that they had allowed their personal priorities to take the place of what mattered to God.

The people had convinced themselves that it wasn't the right time to rebuild God's house. Sometimes what we call waiting for the right time is simply delaying obedience.

God also challenged the people to consider what they were pursuing. Despite their hard work and material possessions, they were still unsatisfied. They had become so focused on building their earthly lives that they neglected what mattered eternally.

Finally, God called them to action. It wasn't enough to recognize that their priorities were misplaced. They needed to respond in obedience and participate in the work He had called them to do.

The same is true for us. God has entrusted us with resources, opportunities, and influence, not simply for our own benefit, but to advance His Kingdom. Putting God first requires us to examine our priorities, reconsider what we are pursuing, and faithfully participate in what He is doing.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's teaching? What challenged, convicted, or encouraged you personally?
2. Read Haggai 1:2-4. The Israelites had invested in building their

own homes while neglecting God's house. Their problem wasn't having nice things, but allowing those things to take priority over God. As you examine your own life, are there areas where your personal goals or desires have taken priority over what God is calling you to do?

3. The Israelites kept saying it wasn't the right time to rebuild God's house, even though they had spent years investing in their own lives. What are some excuses we make for delaying obedience to God, especially when it comes to giving and generosity? How can we distinguish between genuinely seeking God's direction and simply putting off what we already know He is calling us to do?

4. Read Haggai 1:5-6 and Matthew 6:19-21. The Israelites worked hard and accumulated possessions, yet they remained unsatisfied. Why do you think pursuing financial success, comfort, or material things can leave us feeling empty? How can we recognize when our hearts are becoming more focused on earthly treasures than eternal ones?

5. Read Haggai 1:8 and 1:12-14. God didn't simply point out the people's misplaced priorities. He called them to respond through obedience and participation. Why is it sometimes easier to recognize what God is calling us to do than to actually take that step? What might be holding you back from responding?

6. God has entrusted us with resources and opportunities to make His name known and impact future generations. As you consider your participation in Entrusted, what would it look like for you to move beyond good intentions and take a meaningful step of faith and sacrificial generosity? What might need to change for you to put God first in this area of your life?

Additional Questions

7. God repeatedly challenged His people to "consider your ways."

If someone looked at how you spend your time, money, and resources, what would they conclude matters most to you? How closely does that reflect your desire to put God first?

8. We often find time and resources for the things we truly prioritize. When you look at your financial decisions, what do they reveal about your priorities? Is there an area where God may be challenging you to put His Kingdom ahead of your personal wants or plans?

Application

This week, take some time to consider your ways, just as God challenged the Israelites to do in Haggai 1.

Examine three areas of your life:

- Your priorities: Does the way you spend your time and money reflect that God comes first?
- Your pursuits: Are you primarily investing in things that are temporary, or are you also investing in what has eternal value?
- Your participation: Are you actively participating in the work God is doing, or have you been putting off a step of obedience?

Ask yourself:

What is one area of my life where I have been saying “not yet” to something God is calling me to do?

Identify one specific step you can take this week to put God first. It may mean adjusting a financial priority, making room for generosity, or taking a step of obedience you have been delaying.

Remember, God hasn’t entrusted us with resources simply to build our own lives. He has invited us to be part of something far greater

than ourselves, something that can have an eternal impact.

Pray

Father, thank You for everything You have entrusted to us. Forgive us for the times we have allowed our own priorities and pursuits to take Your place in our lives. Help us to honestly consider our ways and recognize where we have been putting ourselves first. Give us hearts that desire what matters to You and the courage to respond in obedience. Teach us to trust You with our finances, our resources, and our future. May we be faithful in using what You have given us to advance Your Kingdom and make Your Name known. In Jesus' Name, amen.